## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Prior Group Art Unit: 3629

Mitsuaki OSHIMA et al. Prior Examiner: Thomas A. Dixon

Serial No.: Rule 1.53(b) Cont. of

SN 10/418,088 filed 4/18/03

Filed: March 26, 2004

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

The listed references were cited during prosecution of patent application Serial No. 10/418,088 filed April 18, 2003; grandparent application Serial No. 09/475,228 filed December 30, 1999, now U.S. Patent 6,611,820; and great grandparent application Serial No. 08/849,468 filed June 9, 1997, now U.S. Patent 6,081,785, and copies of each reference may be found in the USPTO file for the parent, grandparent and great grandparent applications.

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The above information is presented so that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 C.F.R. \$1.104(a) and \$1.106(b) concerning the USPTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,
PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

March 26, 2004
Date

Roger W. Parkhurst Registration No. 25,177 Robert N. Wieland Registration No. 40,225

RWP:RNW/mhs

Attorney Docket No.: MEIC:011K

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| Sheet 1 of 2   |                    |                          |   |       |          |  |                       |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|---|-------|----------|--|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| FORM PTO 1449 (monified) •   |                    |                          | ATTY DOCKET NO SERIAL MEIC:011K R1.53(b |       |          | L NO.<br>b) Cont. of SN 10/418,088 filed 4/18/03 |                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| U.S. OEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  (Use several sheets if necessary) |                    |                          | APPLICANT<br>Misuald OSHIMA et al.      |       |          |  |                       |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |                    |                          | FILING DATE<br>March 26, 2004           |       |          | GROUP<br>3629                                    |                       |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Sheet 2  | of 2              |                    |                                  |  |        |                 |             |                               |          |
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| FORM PTO 1449 (modified)   |                   |                    | ATTY DOCKET NO.<br>MEIC:011K     | SERIAL NO.<br>R1.53(b) Cont. of SN 10/418,088 file |        |                 |             |                               |          |
| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  (Use several states if necessiry) |                   |                    | APPLICANT Mitsuaki OSHIMA et al. |  |        |                 |             |                               |          |
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